

and his representative for supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Apalachicola National Forest is the largest of Florida's three national forests. It contains 564,000 acres, and its rivers and streams provide a steady freshwater flow to some of the most productive coastal bays and estuaries known for shellfish and other commercial seafood. Portions of the forest are in wet lowlands and they abound with cypress, oak and magnolias. Watching wildlife, hunting and fishing are popular recreation activities in this beautiful national forest. Visitors to the forest also enjoy swimming, picnicking, boating, and camping.

The Apalachicola National Forest is truly a national treasure, and I am very proud that this legislation will help strengthen and sustain one of our Nation's most valuable natural assets.

As the chairman and the ranking member have said, this enables the national forest to sell a piece of property that really lies right on the south side of Tallahassee, Florida, in Leon County. It actually comes up to the beltway, or what we call the Capital Circle and is surrounded on three sides by commercial development. It is detached from the rest of the national forest, and so it is really, as you have heard earlier, an unmanageable piece of land. And with those proceeds, we are going to use the proceeds to go and purchase some privately held holdings within the confines of the 564,000 acres, what we commonly know as "inholdings," and that is the only purpose that those funds can be used for. There are about 2,000 acres of inholdings, privately held lands within the Apalachicola National Forest, and that is what those funds, Mr. Speaker, would be used for.

I want to thank Mr. Joe Baca, the Forestry Subcommittee chairman, and his staff director, Lisa Shelton, for helping guide this legislation through the subcommittee process. And also I want to thank my friend, the majority leader, Mr. HOYER, for scheduling. I encourage our colleagues to pass this legislation.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1374.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

□ 1230

EXPRESSING HEARTFELT SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS AND FAMILIES OF THE SHOOTINGS IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA, ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 856) expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Omaha, Nebraska, on Wednesday, December 5, 2007.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 856

Whereas the community of Omaha, Nebraska has suffered through a tragic event at the Westroads Mall that resulted in the loss of 9 lives and the wounding of several others;

Whereas on December 5, 2007, a troubled young man entered a department store in the Westroads Mall in Omaha, Nebraska carrying a rifle;

Whereas the young man began to randomly fire his rifle at shoppers and store clerks within the Von Maur department store and other locations within Westroads Mall;

Whereas the result of this shooting spree resulted in the deaths of Gary Scharf, John McDonald, Angie Schuster, Maggie Webb, Janet Jorgensen, Diane Trent, Gary Joy, and Beverly Flynn;

Whereas Fred Wilson, Michelle Oldham, Jeff Schaffert, and Brad Stafford were wounded as a result of the shootings;

Whereas the first responders, officers of the Omaha Police Department, Douglas and Sarpy County Sheriff's Department, and Omaha Fire Department, arrived at the Westroads Mall within minutes and secured all entrances and exits to the mall and discovered a number of deceased persons, including the shooter;

Whereas on December 6, 2007 Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman ordered that all United States and State flags in Nebraska be flown at half-staff through Sunday, Dec. 9; and

Whereas the grieving and celebration of the lives of those lost in this senseless tragedy will be with the greater Omaha community for months and years to come: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Omaha, Nebraska on Wednesday, December 5, 2007; and

(2) conveys its gratitude to the city and county officials, and all the police, fire, sheriff, and emergency medical teams who responded swiftly to the scene and secured the mall and surrounding area.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I join my colleagues in consideration of H. Res. 856, which expresses heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Omaha, Nebraska, on Wednesday, December 5, 2007. H. Res. 856, which was introduced by Representative LEE TERRY on December 12, 2007, has the support of 72 Members of Congress.

The community of Omaha, Nebraska, experienced a shooting spree at the hands of a troubled teenager carrying a rifle on December 5. Sadly, nine people died, and four others were wounded in the Westroads Mall. Thankfully, first responders, the Omaha Police Department, Douglas and Sarpy County Sheriff's Department, and Omaha Fire Department all arrived within minutes of the attacks to secure all entrances.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express great sympathy for the community's tragedy and all of the lives lost. I commend my colleague for sponsoring this measure, and I urge the swift passage of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, as we on a bipartisan basis support this resolution, I would yield to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) such time as he may consume.

Mr. TERRY. I thank my friend, the gentleman from California, as well as the Government Reform Committee, for making sure that this got to the floor in such a timely manner.

December 5, 2007: that will be a day forever etched in Omaha's memory as the day a lone gunman took the lives of eight innocent people at the Westroads Mall, the Von Maur store, during the holiday shopping season. But it will also be remembered as a day that revealed the true character of Omaha.

Tragedy, no doubt, reveals the true meaning of unity in any community. Although I will never understand the senseless events that took place in my hometown on December 5, I stand here as a proud citizen, Congressman of that district, because it's in times like these it doesn't matter what party you belong to, what your political beliefs are, your race, creed, or color. People come together and they ask what can we do to help the city and the eight innocent people. I think this is not only the spirit of Omaha, or what defines the Omaha area, but also I think it is what exemplifies the spirit of America, and it is that spirit that we remember in each of the victims and the first responders.

Let me introduce the eight innocent lives that were lost on that day. There was 53-year-old Dianne Clavin Trent,